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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 27, 2007, at 2 p.m.

Senate

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2007

The Senate met at 12 noon and was called to order by the Honorable MARIA CANTWELL, a Senator from the State of Washington.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, on this wintry weekend, we pause to thank You for life and health and love. Without Your love, we would falter. Faced with challenges that demand greater-than-human wisdom, we find comfort in the knowledge that You care. Free us from guilt through the power of Your limitless forgiveness.

Today, O Lord, keep our lawmakers faithful in the performance of their duties. Remind them of their total dependence on You. Open their minds to opportunities to do Your work on Earth. Give them wisdom for the crucial decisions that affect our Nation and world. Inspire each Senator to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with You. We pray in Your wonderful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MARIA CANTWELL led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication

to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, February 17, 2007.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable MARIA CANTWELL, a Senator from the State of Washington, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Ms. CANTWELL thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Madam President, this afternoon we will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 574, with the time until 1:45 p.m. equally divided between the two leaders or their designees; further, the Republican leader will control the time between 1:25 and 1:35, and the majority leader will control the time between 1:35 and 1:45 p.m. At 1:45 p.m., the Senate will proceed to the rollcall vote on cloture on the motion to proceed. Senators should be aware there is a possibility of additional rollcall votes this afternoon, and they would occur shortly after the cloture vote if cloture is not invoked.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Madam President, I would also ask that on our side, the allotted time of the Senators be limited to 5 minutes each.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

SCHEDULED TIME IN OPPOSITION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, all of the time in opposition to the proposal the majority leader is describing has been scheduled, and we will be filling all of that time on this side of the aisle.

I yield the floor.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE CONGRESS ON IRAQ—MOTION TO PROCEED

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 574, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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